

# Palmetto Castle



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Charleston District

Fall 2010

## Team Charleston Celebrates Largest Program in 20+ Years!



The Palmetto Castle is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. It is published quarterly for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of Defense. Inquiries, comments and requests for electronic copies can be forwarded to the editor of the Palmetto Castle by e-mail to : [PalmettoCastle@usace.army.mil](mailto:PalmettoCastle@usace.army.mil)

Commander:  
Lt. Col. Jason A. Kirk  
843-329-8000

Deputy, Programs and Project Management:  
William Stein  
843-329-8055

Corporate Communications Office:

Editor in Chief and Corporate Communications Chief:  
Glenn E. Jeffries  
843-329-8123

Design Editor and Public Affairs Specialist:  
Sara Corbett  
843-329-8174

Writer and Public Affairs Specialist:  
Sean McBride  
843-329-8103

# CONTENTS

## FEATURES

2010: A Great Year!	Page 4
The Charleston Harbor Post 45 Process Begins	Page 14
Nuclear Facility Now Calls on the Charleston District	Page 16
New Capabilities Give Corps a New Responsibility	Page 17
Corps Cooperates with Other Agencies on Highway Extension Project	Page 18
Joint Base Charleston Provides Deployment Support	Page 19
Year End Awards: Recognizing Great Performance!	Page 20

## DEPARTMENTS

District Commander's Message	Page 3
Safety Corner	Page 13
Here to Help	Page 17
Puzzle Piece	Page 19
Corporate Citizen	Page 22
Tidbits	Page 24

On the cover....



### Be sure to follow us:

<http://sac.usace.army.mil>

<http://twitter.com/CharlestonCorps>

<http://www.youtube.com/USACESAC>

Teamwork and health are keys to success at the Charleston District. Here employees are gathered before the annual Bridge Walk. Read more on page 23.



# From the Commander

Happy [Fiscal] New Year to our Charleston District team members, stakeholders and partners across South Carolina and beyond-

What a year it has been!!! I have been privileged to serve during a time of unprecedented workload across our multi-faceted program. Both in annual expenditures-\$282.5 million-and in contracting actions-294 actions totaling \$178.6 million, this has been the highest workload year for Charleston District in the last 20+ years.

However, the numbers do not tell the whole story. The pride of our team is tied to knowing we've served a wide array of customers and stakeholders across the nation! From the Army Strategic Logistics Activity in Charleston, to the landowner/permit applicant in Horry County, to the Soldiers at Fort Jackson, to the Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters in New Orleans, the District is serving these and many other customers everyday. Delivering superior performance, setting the standard for our profession and making an overall positive impact on our nation (and other nations through our ten volunteers who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq over this past year) is what we continually strive for.

As we step off into a new fiscal year and look ahead to 2011, we're excited about the opportunity to continue to deliver for all of our customers. We're poised to deliver "full-service" engineering, construction and



contracting support to our facilities maintenance and construction customers.

We'll continue to work with stakeholders across the state to provide transparent environmental permitting processes that balance protection of aquatic resources with development. We're looking to expand our

role in collaborative water resources planning across the watersheds within our boundaries by partnering with local, state and federal agencies to offer holistic solutions to future resource challenges. We're looking for new opportunities to show our "ESSAYONS" (Let Us Try) spirit.

Team Charleston will continue to reach towards GREATNESS as we achieve our OPLAN vision of being universally regarded as a cadre of highly trusted and valued public engineers, scientists and professionals in service to South Carolina and the nation.

Best Regards -- BUILDING STRONG!

Correction: In the Summer 2010 edition article, "Good Relations Bring More Work," it was incorrectly stated that the MARFORRES headquarters is 41,000 square feet. It is 411,000 square feet.

## Good to Great!

"Disciplined people who engage in disciplined thought and who take disciplined action - operating with freedom within a framework of responsibilities - this is the cornerstone of a culture that creates greatness. In a culture of discipline, people do not have jobs; they have *responsibilities*."

Jim Collins  
Author, "Good to Great"

# 2010: A GREAT YEAR!

By: Sara Corbett and Glenn Jeffries

The 214 people of the Charleston District are proud to share with you their incredible success in developing innovative, resilient and sustainable solutions for our customers this past year. The District's programs have continued to grow and the District strives to provide exceptional service every time they are called upon.

- Charleston District hired 35 new people; nine to support our new customer, the Defense Logistics Agency, 15 to support our increased mission at Ft. Jackson and five to support our new work at Savannah River Site. Seven employees retired and 17 left for other career opportunities. Seven new students were hired for the summer student temporary employment program

## CIVIL WORKS

- Charleston Harbor

- o Completed the Reconnaissance Phase of the Post 45 study determining there is a federal interest in conducting a detailed feasibility study. Congress must appropriate \$400,000 for the Corps to begin the study



The Charleston District dredges the Charleston Harbor, making arrivals of ships like the MSC Rita possible.

- o Completed dredging the lower reaches with \$5.75 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding



Lt. Col. Kirk and Lisa Metheney, assistant chief, PPMD, briefed Senator Lindsey Graham and Representative Henry Brown on the Post 45 study.

- o Completed dredging the entrance channel for \$3.75 million

- o Awarded a \$6 million contract to Southern Dredging in August to dredge the upper reaches. Work will begin in October

- o Executed a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) in September with the South Carolina State Ports Authority which will allow for new construction dike raising at the Clouter Creek disposal area for the next 20+ years

- o Awarded \$3.9 million diking contract to ES & J Enterprises for increased disposal capacity in Clouter Creek. Work will begin in November

- o Developed a five year use plan for non-Corps users of Clouter Creek disposal area

- o Coverage on three TV Stations and in *The Post and Courier* on the arrival of the MSC Rita and the role the Corps plays in dredging the harbor

- Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway

- o Dredged, with ARRA funds, critical areas from Little River to Port Royal and disposal area repair in select areas. Work completed in May

- o Awarded a contract in excess of \$1.28 million for dike raising and spillway repairs. Work will begin in December

- Georgetown Harbor

- o Completed dike disposal area work for \$1 million in Georgetown Harbor to support future dredging operations

- Cooper River Rediversion Project (St. Stephen)

- o Celebrated the 25th anniversary of the start of the operations at the St. Stephen powerhouse. As part of the celebration, signed a reaffirming agreement between the Corps, Santee Cooper and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), which signified a continued partnership between these agencies. Coverage in *The Post and Courier* with two articles highlighting the importance of this project, which is saving the taxpayer \$14-18 million per year in dredging costs

- o Passed 572,797 fish through the fish lift



Pipes being laid for the Santee Reach for the Lakes Marion and Moultrie project.

- o Refurbished and repaired damaged intake gate with \$263,000 in ARRA funds

- o Replaced roof and provided new grounding system on powerhouse with \$700,000 in ARRA funds

- o Replaced and installed new excitation system with \$1.4 million in ARRA funds

- Lake Marion Regional Water Project

- o Awarded \$4.5 million contract (partially funded by ARRA) to Chandler Construction Services for the Ellore/Calhoun Reach Phase I & II waterline installation

- o Awarded \$2.5 million contract to Caldwell Tanks, Inc for the construction of the Goodby's Creek Industrial Park Water Tower

- o Completed pipe laying on the ARRA funded Holly Hill Reach

- Reedy River Ecosystem Restoration

- o Began work on the Project Management Plan and Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement

- o Held initial scoping meetings with City of Greenville



Lt. Col. Kirk signing the reaffirming agreement with Bill McCall, Santee Cooper, and Ross Self, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

- o Replaced and installed riprap to stabilize the banks at the Rediversion Canal due to encroaching areas and jeopardizing access roads and effecting structural integrity of bridge abutments. Stabilization contract awarded to Cape Romain Contractors for \$763,000 with ARRA funds. This will result in reduction of future maintenance costs and improved safety



- Yorktown Planning Assistance to States Study

- o Executed agreement with Patriot's Point Re-development Authority to complete study of proposed cofferdam around USS Yorktown to facilitate much needed maintenance. Study to be completed next FY

- Edisto Island Feasibility Study

- o Advanced study by completing data collection for economic modeling and baseline project data



Matt Boles, survey technician, explains to Col. Martha Meeker, Joint Base Charleston, how the multibeam works and the benefits of it to clients.

- Waccamaw River PAS

- o Initiated Phase II of study with the award of a \$70,000 contract for bathymetric surveys in September 2010. Includes development of watershed modeling tools for Horry County, SC planners and managers

- Folly Beach

- o Determined the beach has reached trigger point to need renourishment. Calculated the quantity of beach fill material needed and completed draft limited re-evaluation report

- Inspection of Completed Works

- o Completed 100 percent inspections of projects prior to September to ensure sponsors are maintaining their projects properly and allowing the projects to generate the benefits expected

## MARITIME CUSTOMERS

- Conducted more than 250 surveys, investigated two vessels sinking. Discovered and removed three obstructions in federal channel and conducted multibeam surveys of Charleston Harbor and Georgetown Harbor entrance as well as Charleston Jetties

- Partnered with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) to develop a Vdatum model for the state of South Carolina allowing for a nationwide standard baseline datum

- Continued building relationships with local agencies for emergency response, homeland security and data sharing and participated in several outreach events for the community including educational presentations, the Blue Angels airshow, local news events and District VIP tours

## INTERAGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

- Marine Forces Reserves

- o Awarded \$19 million in USACE contracts for upfit at the 411,000 square foot MARFORRES headquarters Federal City Complex, New Orleans, LA. Includes design and execution of the emergency power generation, vehicle entrance gates and computer room HVAC units. Funded Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR) \$13.4 million for networks and communications systems design, procurement and installation. In addition, will provide all construction support with quality assurance and quality inspections. Project scheduled for completion in September 2011

- o Facility Sustainment Restoration Maintenance (FSRM) Support

- Provides maintenance/repair, engineering and contract support for 30 Marine Corps Reserve Centers (MCRC) through four regional contracts and also provides preventative maintenance of mechanical equipment, inspection of facilities, testing of cranes and back flow preventers, service calls for small repairs, and the ability to do large repairs (ex. replace chiller, roof, etc.)

- Installed Armory and Perimeter Intrusion Detection System (IDS). Services include the installation, modification, monitoring, inspection, repair and



Col. William Davis, MARFORRES HQ, and MG Semonite, SAD Commander, talk about the positive partnership between MARFORRES and the Corps.

testing of perimeter fence and armory and secure IT rooms for 145 reserve centers

- Provided boiler inspections for 16 reserve centers throughout the country which included inspection to boilers and unfired pressure vessels to ensure they are safe, fully functional and operational

- Provided energy assessments at 30 reserve centers to identify and evaluate potential energy conservation measures (ECMs) through field surveys of the facilities' existing utility systems

#### o Environmental Support

- Began developing 38 Environmental Conditions of Property (ECP) reports. Will continue thru FY 11

- Awarded contract to install or modify a reclaim vehicle wash system at various nationwide sites, as well as providing maintenance and repair for reclaim vehicle wash systems

- Awarded a contract to implement an environmental inspection and documentation of 181 sites (owned, tenant, joint, leased) in the United States

- Obtained documentation of condition and compliance with all local, state and federal laws on all vehicle wash systems, hazard material lockers, back flow preventers, weapons cleaning equipment and environmental related permits

#### • Defense Logistics Agency

- o Established an eight member project delivery team to execute program. After identifying a need, a new team member was added, a project manager specializing in fire protection engineering

- o Awarded service contracts for Defense Distribution Depot at Warner Robins, GA for \$3.5 million and at Defense Distribution Depot at Red River, TX for \$4.1 million. Includes routine preventative maintenance on mechanical and electrical equipment, overhead doors, and dock levelers

- o Awarded construction contract for Defense Distribution Depot at Warner Robins, GA for \$7.1 million, Defense Distribution Depot at Red River, TX for \$9 million and Defense Distribution Depot at Oklahoma City, OK for \$5.5 million. Includes mechanical HVAC replacement, electrical system replacement and installation of new overhead doors



In FY10, the Corps took on DLA as a new client. The Charleston District is excited about this new collaboration.

#### • Veteran's Administration

##### o Augusta VAMC

- Completed emergency generator controls upgrades, installation of nurse call alert system and bed alarms, refurbished polytrauma unit halls and walls and transitional training apartment for \$2.25 million

- Began construction to correct Air Handling Unit (AHU)/HVAC deficiencies in Building 801 for \$3.7 million

□ Awarded contract to correct stair tower deficiencies in Building 801 for \$4.5 million. Construction will begin in November

□ Awarded contract to replace Building 801 exterior windows for \$592,000 and replace Building 801 & 802 exterior wall panels for \$370,000. Design package development started in October



Lisa Simmons, contracting specialist with the Corps, and Louise Sheridan, general engineer, Veteran Affairs Medical Center, inspect the progress of construction on the mental health outpatient clinic.

#### o Charleston VAMC

□ Replaced leaking duct work, mechanical system upgrades, 5-A North area and Myrtle Beach renovations and pharmacy upgrades for \$4.5 million

□ Initiated construction on outpatient mental health expansion building for \$3.5 million

#### o Columbia VAMC

□ Awarded contract for relocating Intensive Care Unit for \$4.3 million

□ Awarded contract for canteen renovation for \$68,000 and steam system study and analysis for \$133,000. Design package development

started in October

#### o Dublin VAMC

□ Awarded contract to replace Building 19's (AHUs) for \$800,000. Construction will begin in November

□ Awarded contract to upgrade steam system distribution for \$400,000 and correct electrical deficiencies for \$578,000. Design package development started in October

#### o Chillicothe VAMC

□ Began construction on rebuild of boiler plant for \$11.2 million

□ Awarded contract modification for biomass fuel boiler plant for \$13.7 million

#### • Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration

o Awarded Advance Tactical Training Area (ATTA) Live-Fire Shoot Expansion project for \$1.5 million

o Continued design and construction oversight support to Pit Disassembly and Conversion (PDC) project

o Hired three positions to support construction management and quality assurance oversight for Salt Waste Processing Facility

o Hired two positions to support quality assurance oversight and technical support to Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility (MOX)

#### • Department of State

o Completed HazMat survey to support Building 644 renovation project for \$30,000. Construction contract to be awarded in FY 11

#### • Shaw Air Force Base

o Awarded contracts for \$770,000 for envi-



ronmental compliance support services including prescribed fire GIS and environmental technical and air quality monitoring. Also awarded contract to replace Building 1698 oil water separator

- Federal Aviation Administration

- o Completed design package development for St. Petersburg-Clearwater airport approach lighting system site stabilization for \$550,000

- Naval Weapons Station

- o Completed in August a \$3 million contract to dredge channel. Contract awarded to Southern Dredging

- o Awarded a \$1.6 million diking contract to increase disposal capacity of the NWS disposal area will be completed in November 2010

- Army Strategic Logistics Area Charleston

- o Awarded a \$3.4 million contract to a sole source 8(a) small business set aside, CREC Group, LLC, for facilities maintenance and supply support services

- o Awarded a \$895,398 contract to Modular Container Systems, Inc., a small business located in GA, for a wheel storage transport rack, which maintains the integrity of tires shipped by sea for military vehicles used in overseas operations

## MILCON (FORT JACKSON)



Wayne Griffith, project manager, oversees construction at Fort Jackson.



Lt. Col. Kirk cutting the ribbon at the Global Assessment Tool Facility's opening celebration.

- o Construction completed on: Armed Forces Chaplaincy Center for \$10.5 million (chaplains and Soldiers from all branches of service train in religious studies), Basic Training Center II complex of three barracks, dining facility and headquarters for \$76.1 million, running tracks for physical training for \$1.4 million, Trainee Barracks Upgrade Program barracks, dining facility and headquarters for \$30.2 million

- o Construction underway on: Consolidated Drill Sergeant School barracks for \$23.8 million, Basic Training Complex III for \$41.2 million, Night Infiltration Course for \$1.76 million

- o Construction awarded on: Two-Dual DFACs (Quad DFAC)(MCA)for \$45.5 million (which can serve food to 2,000 Soldiers in an hour), modified Record Fire Range for \$3.7 million

- o Design completed on: first Code T adapt build (requirements for construction in South Carolina) for the BTC-II Lost Scope Barracks for \$29 million

- o Planning 1391 completed on: FY-15 AIT-2 Barracks Complex for \$142 million

- Sustainment, Repair and Maintenance: Master Resiliency Training Course Facility for \$2.56 million (where Soldiers learn to deal with mental, spiritual and physical challenges and stresses), Global Assessment Tool Facility for \$845,000 (which facilitates administration of newly required mental health test), Building 9810,

Phase I for \$204,000 (renovated building), Child Development Center Utilities for \$324,000 (installed utilities), Shady Lane Storm Drainage Repairs for \$602,000 (repaired sinkholes), Boundless Playground for \$222,000 (for disabled children), O'Club Fire Alarm for \$160,000 (repaired alarm), repair gymnasiums for \$4.2 million (repaired the roof, HVAC, flooring and painted), repair locatables for \$7.5 million (repaired temporary classrooms, barracks, dining facilities and admin space)

## REGULATORY

- Issued 542 general permits with 95 percent being issued in less than 60 days. Issued 116 individual permits with 60 percent being issued in less than 120 days. Completed 1,770 jurisdictional determinations, conducted 320 compliance inspections and resolved 88 enforcement cases

- Partnering initiatives: A significant effort was made to strengthen our relationships with other federal, state, local and private agencies/institutions/organizations: US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Department of Justice (DOJ), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), the Citadel, Clemson University, Richland County, Lexington County, York County, South Carolina Association of Stormwater Managers (SCASM), the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Coastal Conservation League, Upstate Forever, SC Department of Commerce (SCDC), the Governor's office, MeadWestvaco, Mungo Builders



Regulatory and planning team members meet with Catawba Indians.



Lt. Col Kirk signing an MOU with the SC Forestry Commission's, state forester, Gene Kodama.

and the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce

- Signed a memorandum of understanding with the South Carolina Forestry Commission regarding forestry practices and exempted activities resulting in a reduction of unauthorized activities in the state of SC and further protection of our nation's aquatic resources
- Attended, by invitation, the 1st Annual Catawba Pow-Wow: Demonstrations of Native American Indian dances and drumming from various recognized tribes were highlighted
- Granted a modification to the original Vought Aircraft permit within five days of receipt of application, by Boeing Aircraft who had purchased the facility
- Served on the SC Shoreline Change Advisory Committee, which was charged with examining science and policy issues related to both beachfront and estuarine shoreline management in SC. Their efforts will help the state address social, economic and natural resource impacts of shoreline changes that may result from continued or accelerated sea level rising, development encroachment into the beach/dune system, shoreline alterations and coastal storms
- Began comprehensive pilot watershed study in the state. Members of the steering committee include several counties, non-governmental organizations and universities and the following state and federal agencies: SCDNR, SCDHEC, US Environmental Protection Agency





Lt. Col. Kirk talking with Mary Graham, Charleston Chamber of Commerce, and Clay Duffy, Mount Pleasant Water Works and Charleston Chamber of Commerce, about the Water Resource Consortium.

(EPA), FWS, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NOAA, US Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Organized a workshop with NRCS to share information on agency missions, regulations, policies and procedures to improve agency coordination and to streamline processes in order to better serve the public. Several joint working groups were established to collaborate on solutions to issues that were raised (i.e. farm ponds)

- Issued a nationwide permit verification letter for the placement of fill material inside the sheet pile ring at Morris Island Lighthouse and for coring through the foundation of the lighthouse to gather geotechnical and engineering data

- Attended the "National Summit on Infrastructure and the Environment" held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. The summit convened leaders from business, government and environmental organizations to improve the environmental review process for infrastructure projects in the US

- The state's first National Environmental Policy Act/404 Merger process began on the Mark Clark Expressway (MCE) Project. The MCE project includes a parkway that connects I-526 to the James Island Connector. This was the first time that the Federal Highway Administration, SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and the Corps collaborated to produce an environmental document that will meet the needs of all agencies

- Cooperating on two Environmental Impact Statements being prepared by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for projects in Fairfield and Cherokee counties. In both cases, applicants propose to construct two Westinghouse Advanced Passive (AP 1000) pressurized water nuclear reactor units capable of producing 1,200 megawatts each. There are currently 16 nuclear projects proposed nationwide. Six of these projects are in South Atlantic Division, with two in the Charleston District

- Issued permits for two essential SCDOT ARRA-funded widening and improvements projects-Hwy 17A and SC-602 (Platt Springs Road)

- Participated in more than 30 outreach events educating the public on the regulatory program

- Educated the public on the regulatory program as guests on Lowcountry Live, a local news show, and on NPR's radio program, Walter Edgar's "The Journal"

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Deployed team member, Dennis McKinley, taking his normal mode of transportation while in Afghanistan.

- Eleven personnel deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq in support of Overseas Contingency Operations and seven returned from overseas. Five more personnel scheduled to deploy before the end of December 2010

- Hurricane Evacuation Studies and HURREVAC Training Program

- o Trained (using personnel from several Dis-

tricts) more than 3,000 non-federal emergency managers, in more than 90 training sessions, nationwide on this decision support computer program which will aid in gathering information needed in making evacuation decisions

- Assisted in recovery of Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill by participating in Emergency Area Committee meeting that the USCG conducted
- Awarded national ice contract to IAP Worldwide Services in Panama City, FL for a not-to-exceed amount of \$475 million, which will allow for three million pounds of ice to be delivered within 24 hours
- Participated in 11th annual Hurricane Awareness Day at the Medical University of South Carolina providing over 200 people with hurricane related information
- Participant in SC Emergency Management Division full-scale exercise at the state and local levels as well as SC National Guard's "Rock Drill" to test response capabilities to support the citizens of SC



The Charleston District took over the ICE mission in FY10. Lt. Col. Kirk and Derald McMillian, national emergency manager, prepare for the official hand over.

- Participated in USACE National Commodities exercise in Columbus, OH to ensure readiness of all emergency commodities and provided training to Nation ICE PRT
- Established a memorandum of agreement with Joint Base Charleston enabling our employees to use the facilities at the Air Force Base for pre-deployment

physicals, legal advice and other services

## OTHER BUILDING STRONG ACTIONS

- Completed 294 contracting actions, which is a record high. Contract dollars executed tripled, while the number of actions quadrupled and included first time customers such as Department of State, DLA and numerous military reserve components
- Small business goals were exceeded and were two to three times greater than USACE targets
- Contracting staff has grown by four positions
- Established a South Carolina Silver Jackets Chapter which addresses flood risk management issues. Team effort with other federal and state agencies: FEMA, USGS, NRCS, NOAA, SCDNR, SCDHEC, SCDOT and SCEMD. Charter being developed
- Selected by American Shore and Beach Preservation Association to give a presentation on "Beneficial Uses of Dredge Material and Regional Sediment Management in SC" at the October conference in Charleston
- Awarded contract for new boathouse at Lowcountry office in order to provide better protection to assets
- Started a Twitter page which currently has 383 followers. Follow at <http://twitter.com/CharlestonCorps>
- Installed wireless system in headquarters building which will allow visitors to access the Internet and their office systems
- Increased bandwidth to allow for faster access to our Internet server
- Telework Program has become more flexible allowing ad hoc days to be approved as needed
- Contributed \$21,000 to the Combined Federal Campaign last year. At time of printing, had already surpassed 2011's campaign goal
- Provided toys to local children through the Toys for Tots program
- Increased our Health and Fitness program to benefit



employees. Held bridge walk and health screening where 78 employees participated. Established a "Fitness Fanatic" of the quarter award

- Provided 150 flu and H1N1 vaccines to employees
- Purchased a digital fingerprint scanner to allow for timely background investigations of potential new hires
- Internal audit conducted showing no material weakness

- Increased readership of Palmetto Castle to nearly 900 recipients

- Briefed local Advancing Government Accountability and American Society of Military Comptrollers organizations on Charleston District Programs and CFO initiatives

- Hosted 60 students from Ashley Hall School for Engineering Week exposing these "future employees" to math, science and technology



Soldiers standing in front of barracks at Fort Jackson in 1918. Picture courtesy of Jim Boone, from Jacksonville District, who's grandfather is in this picture.

## Safety Corner

By: John Lindsay, safety officer

The Charleston District's number one priority is the safety of both the public and our employees. This past year, the District had only one lost-time accident and three non-lost time accidents in approximately 400,000 man-hours.

A good incident rate is calculated by the total number of lost time accidents, multiplied by 200,000, divided by the number of man-hours. Green (good) is .28 or less, amber (ok) is .29-.31 and red (poor) is .32 or greater. Using this formula, the District concluded that the incident rate was only .21, keeping the District in the green.

This great statistic shows that all of the District employees and contractors are safety conscious while on the job whether it is on a construction site, dredge, in a wetland or in the office...BUT...what about at home? How many times have you stood on the top step of your ladder to put that ceiling fan up, or cut the grass in flip flops, or not worn your seat belt on the way home or texted while driving? All of these are examples of unsafe practices.

Recently, a Corps employee was installing crown mold-

ing in his bedroom. He was using a miter saw to cut the crown molding into the proper lengths and using his foot to help hold the molding steady as it was being cut. All of a sudden, his foot was a little too close and when he pushed the blade down it cut through his tennis shoe and nicked his toe. He was lucky!



The shoe that was cut by the miter saw.

Though a bit embarrassed, he was concerned enough to share his story as a lesson to hopefully prevent someone else from making the same mistake. Remember... safety starts at home. Let's stay healthy for our family, our coworkers, our job and especially for ourselves.

# The Charleston Harbor Post 45 Process Begins

By: Sean McBride

The Charleston District has maintained the Charleston Harbor channel for more than 130 years. The District has dredged some portion of the harbor every year during this time to ensure the channel is at the required federal project depth, currently set at 45 feet, and ensure the channel's width and alignment are maintained as authorized by federal law.

Now, the District is looking into deepening Charleston Harbor beyond 45 feet.

As a result of a Congressional add in the FY10 budget, the Charleston District was able to complete a reconnaissance report to determine if there was federal interest in deepening the harbor beyond 45 feet, known as the Post 45

project. The report did

show federal interest, leading to the next phase which would be to conduct a feasibility study. The Post 45 project delivery team (PDT) is currently developing the scope for the feasibility report and plans to sign a Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement in late December.

At this time, there are no funds for the feasibility study in the President's FY11 Budget that was released in

February. The House Appropriations Committee shows \$400,000 for the study in their version of the Appropriations Bill, while the Senate Report shows no funds. The District will have to wait to see what is in the budget when it is passed in its final form and will initiate the study if funds are in the budget.

So you might ask, "What is the point in deepening the harbor?" The answer lies in the future of the shipping industry. Because of the opening of the new Panama Canal in 2014, shipping companies are now constructing larger ships that will be able to carry a larger load. In fact, of all the container ships being built around the world, 80% are too big for the existing Panama Canal.



LTC Kirk, Jim Newsome, SCSA President, Senator Lindsey Graham and Bill Stern, chairman of SCSA, at a Post 45 meeting that the port hosted. Photo courtesy of SCSA

These larger ships draw a deeper draft in the water, which requires a deeper harbor. To this point, some of the larger container ships have been able to come to Charleston Harbor, beginning with the MSC Rita in Febru-

ary, but must plan their arrivals around the tides thus increasing cost. On average, there are four post-Panamax ships in port every week.

Because of the job the District has done dredging and maintaining the harbor, Charleston Harbor has had the privilege of entertaining some of these larger ships. In



the future, if the harbor is not deepened, the larger ships could go to other ports.

"The United States would benefit from deeper channels in Charleston, allowing larger container ships to sail without constraints to and from our coast," said Jim Newsome, president of the South Carolina State Ports Authority. "Deepening the harbor is about how this region and our country can better and more efficiently serve global shipping and bring additional jobs and investment to the nation."

In preparing to move forward with the feasibility phase of Post 45, the Charleston District has established a multi-district, multi-functional PDT to scope the feasibility study. Bob Heinly, chief of planning in the Galveston District of the Corps, is a veteran of deepening studies and is excited to be working as part of the PDT.

"We have seven deep-draft channels in our domain and have studies going on all the time with one or more of them, so we have a lot of experience and were happy to help with developing the different alternatives for Charleston Harbor," said Heinly. "We are leading the planning process of the study in tandem with the project manager in Charleston to identify environmental considerations, problems and opportunities, as well as develop alternatives and create a plan of action to move forward."

Wilmington District employee Frank Reynolds, an economist and regional technical specialist in navigation economics, will be assisting the Charleston District's in-house economist in working through the complex

benefit calculations required during feasibility. All told, there are five people from three different Corps districts working as part of this PDT. Other districts will be involved with various reviews that will take place during the feasibility phase.

In 1986, Charleston Harbor's depth was set at 35 feet. Construction to deepen the channels to 40 feet began

in 1988 and was completed in September 1994. Construction to then deepen the channels to 45 feet began in 1999 and was completed (except for a turning basin) in 2004.

Charleston Harbor is currently one of the nation's 16 strategic ports and is the fourth busiest container port on the East

Coast, making it a significant contributor to the local, state and national economies. Safe passage through the harbor would not be possible without the help of the Charleston District. The District removes and relocates approximately 2-3 million cubic yards of maintenance material each and every year from the channel.

It is the Corps' job to maintain clear channels in the harbor and the Corps spends \$10-15 million each year to accomplish this task.

Stay tuned for updates on the status of the project as the tides turn through the next year.

For questions concerning the Post 45 study, please contact project manager, David Warren, at 843-329-8142.



Charleston District employees on a dredge watching a container ship leave the Charleston Harbor. Dredging allows for container ships to safely move in and out of the harbor.

## NUCLEAR FACILITY NOW CALLS ON THE CHARLESTON DISTRICT

By: Mathew Laws and Sean McBride

The Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) is an industrial complex responsible for several types of cleanup activities such as environmental stewardship, waste management and nuclear material disposition. SRS produces, processes and stores nuclear materials in support of national defense while also developing technology to improve the environment and treat nuclear and hazardous waste resulting from the Cold War. SRS is continually improving and expanding by building new facilities at its roughly 310 square mile compound, which employs about 11,000 highly-skilled workers.

The Charleston District has been involved at SRS since about 1980 with projects such as the first cloverleaf-style bridge in South Carolina, an actinide facility, glass waste storage facility, site entrance barricades and numerous other projects.

Recently, the District has been involved with missions supporting the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) efforts at SRS. These missions involve planning, design, construction and start-up of major nuclear facility complexes. The projects associated with these missions, such as the Mixed Oxide Processing Facility (MOX), Pit Disassembly and Conversion (PDC) project and the Salt Water Processing Facility, are each one-of-a-kind, costing more than \$4 billion apiece and requiring more than 12 years of work from start to finish.



The MOX facility under construction in 2007. The Corps supports the on-going construction at the MOX.

The PDC is a facility where highly-specialized robotics will disassemble surplus nuclear weapon warheads and their pits for material recycling and disposition. The plutonium metal within these nuclear warheads will be recovered and converted to a powder and later manufactured into a mixed oxide fuel in the MOX, which forms fuel pellets for reactor fuel assembly. Building the PDC will increase the role of the Charleston District at SRS by providing direct support to the Federal Project Director for project management and construction services to the National Integrated Project Team.

Currently, the Charleston District has fourteen employees working on-site; ten in the construction office and four employees in the PDC branch with four new hires expected in the upcoming months.

The future of the Charleston District at SRS is bright. The District has a new organizational structure with a new branch, called NNSA Programs Branch, to support NNSA missions. The staff in this branch will likely expand over the next several years in support of this major DOE project.

The Federal Project Director at PDC is committed to a long-term partnership with the Charleston District. This will help the District, and the Corps of Engineers as a whole, gain expertise in a new area that can be used for years to come.

For questions, call Mathew Laws, 843-329-8125.



The New Ellenton Barricade was a project that the Corps built in 2006.



## NEW CAPABILITIES GIVE DISTRICT A NEW RESPONSIBILITY

By: Sean McBride

Since 2008, the Charleston District has been doing military construction at Fort Jackson for a base that graduates 50,000 soldiers every year. Constructing dining facilities that serve 2,000 soldiers in an hour, renovating laundry facilities into state-of-the-art computer testing centers and building a course with obstacles and live ammunition firing seemingly shows that the District has done pretty much everything, but that doesn't mean there aren't new achievements to tackle.

The Charleston District has recently taken on a new responsibility in their Fort Jackson repertoire that allows planning for future buildings to be done in-house. The document, called a 1391, is a planning project document that conceptualizes all aspects of a project from start to finish including limits in the building's physical size, the budget for the project, environmental impacts, economic analysis and much more. The District has done two 1391's so far, both for projects in FY15, but would be happy to do more.

"If requested by the Fort Jackson Department of Public Works, we would be happy to do all the 1391's in the future for all of our projects," said Rhonda Bath, Chief of the Military Project Management Branch. "Now that we are fully staffed, we are in a great position to offer this service."

And fully capable the Charleston District is. Several hiring actions over the past months have given the District a full arsenal of professionals needed to complete planning documents such as this one. Bringing on architects and electrical, mechanical and structural engineers lets the District stand ready to provide the capabilities needed to create 1391s.

The 1391 goes through several phases before it is completed. When a project is first conceptualized, an initial 1391 is completed and is later revised and steps are added to the project. The final phase is the Project Definition Report (PDR), which serves to validate everything that has previously been estimated. The PDR validates the scope of work and makes sure that scheduling, funding and other analyses previously determined are correct. The PDR is evaluated internally as well as with the customer and the "centers of standardization," which are other Corps districts that specialize in certain aspects within the PDR.

The undertaking of the 1391 is very important to the District because it not only expands our range of work possibilities, but also shows the growth we have done throughout the year. The District is excited to have a wide range of experts working together towards a common goal of serving the nation.

For more information please contact Rhonda Bath at 843-329-8117.

---

### Here to Help!

---



Matthew Foss  
Chief of Surveys  
843-329-8206

Matthew.D.Foss@usace.army.mil



Laurie Infinger  
Contract Specialist  
843-329-8081

Laurie.S.Infinger@usace.army.mil



Nancy Jenkins  
Architect  
843-329-8059

Nancy.Jenkins@usace.army.mil

---

## *Corps Cooperates with Other Agencies on Highway Extension Project*

By: Sean McBride

Recently, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) and Charleston County proposed a project to extend the I-526 Mark Clark Expressway. As originally proposed, the project calls for constructing a four-lane parkway facility with low speeds of 35-45 MPH. The project requires a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as it would be built in wetlands adjacent to and crossing over the Stono River. The parkway would begin where I-526 currently ends in West Ashley and would extend over the Stono River through Johns Island, back over the Stono River and end on James Island.

\*Note- as the process has moved forward, the specific proposed design for the I-526 extension project have been sent back to SCDOT by the Charleston County Council for further study\*

Before the project can be constructed, approvals from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Charleston District are required. The Corps of Engineers is responsible for evaluating permit applications for all work that occurs in wetlands or waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. In addition, the Corps must assess environmental impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

For this project, the FHWA and the Corps of Engineers agreed to use an integrated "NEPA/404 Merger Process" as both agencies are required to comply with the same requirements of NEPA. This will improve the project development process by identifying and resolving issues throughout the project, which will assist in maintaining schedules and eliminate duplication of effort between the agencies through this streamlined process.

A public notice was issued for this project on July 28, 2010 announcing the beginning of the comment period for the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the proposed project's impacts to waters of the U.S. In addition to receiving written comments, the Charleston District, along with the other agencies involved, participated in five public hearings

in late August and early September to hear comments in a public forum.

All comments received, both written and those from the public hearings, will be considered when making a decision on the proposed project. While opinions vary on this particular project, it is great to see so much public involvement. The public was given until September 30th to provide written comments if they chose not to speak at a hearing.

These public hearings came after initial public meetings were held in 2008 and 2009. These meetings allowed the public to provide comments for alternatives which would meet the proposed project's purpose and need. Public input initially increased the range of alternatives and then allowed the project team to combine some alternatives and narrow them to a reasonable number. According to David Kinard, SCDOT project manager for the I-526 extension, the proposed alternative can still be refined after hearing public comments.

"A lot of what we have done so far has been driven by public comment, but there is still the issue of paying for the project" said Kinard. "The selected plan was the least expensive of those evaluated."

Public input is essential to the Corps' decision as well and the District appreciates that the public cares enough about projects in their community to take the time to comment. Receiving public comments helps the Charleston District as this assists in their role of making a fair and balanced decision as neutral administrators of the law.

Balancing the needs of the aquatic resources of South Carolina and the needs of the applicant is a complex process. The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and an application of legal guidelines. The timeline for permit decisions on this and all projects varies as all aspects of the process must be properly evaluated.

The Charleston District project manager for the extension project is Elizabeth Williams. For questions, contact her at [elizabeth.g.williams@usace.army.mil](mailto:elizabeth.g.williams@usace.army.mil).



## Joint Base Charleston Provides Deployment Support

By: Sean McBride and Sara Corbett

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, Commander, Lt. Col. Jason Kirk, and the Joint Base Charleston (JB CHS), Commander, Col. Martha Meeker on August 10, 2010. This MOA provides Charleston District volunteer Overseas Contingency Operation deployees with more flexible and accessible services involving deployee medical processing and expanded support for their family members left home.

"I'm looking for any and every way to support and say thanks to our employees who volunteer to deploy overseas and their family members. JB CHS's services are now part of that support. The Charleston District appreciates Col Meeker and her staff as they continuously look for new ways to reach out to, coordinate with and support the military community across the greater Charleston area," Kirk said.

Having access to the services of JB CHS's Airmen and Family Readiness Center and the Base Medical Clinic readily available will be an important part of the support offerings for current and future volunteer deployees. A Family Readiness coordinator, Carol Weart, has

been established.

Services provided will be pre- and post-deployment counseling, pre-deployment physical examinations and deployment-related legal aid as needed for Charleston District civilian employees and their dependents. The Charleston District has deployed 35 volunteer civilians to Afghanistan and Iraq during the past nine years.



LTC Kirk and COL Meeker signing the MOU at the Joint Base Charleston. The District is looking forward this partnership with the Joint Base.

Recently, the first Charleston District deployee took advantage of these services. Michelle Crawford, District Counsel, found the employees at JB CHS to be very helpful in getting her visit taken care of.

"I was the first one to go to the Joint Base from the Charleston District for these services, so there were

a couple of minor hiccups, but everyone there was very nice, helpful and cooperative and were trying to make the process as easy as possible," said Crawford. "Dealing with civilians is something new for them and they are doing a remarkable job of fixing issues and working to make this a positive experience for us."

---

## Which Part of the OPLAN Puzzle are You?



"I contribute to the puzzle by supporting the dredging and diking program for the coast of South Carolina. Working with the survey group to implement the use of multibeam surveys in order to provide a better product for our customers and dredging contracts has been very exciting"-Ian Hawkins, civil engineer, navigation division





# Year End Awards: Recognizing Great Performance!

By: Sara Corbett



(Above) Supervisor of the Year: Travis Hughes, regulatory division. Hughes was awarded supervisor of the year due to his open door policy and his ability to improve upon or correct all projects that are brought to him for review. In addition to being a branch chief, Hughes serves as the deputy chief of the regulatory division, a position which requires that he be familiar with the projects in all three other regulatory branches, as well his own.

(Below) Team Member of the Year--Engineering/Scientific/Professional: Dr. Richard Darden, regulatory division. Dr. Darden is the District jurisdictional determination (JD) champion and is the go to project manager for complex JDs within the District. He assisted with two large ARRA JD projects by leading a field team of ten regulators as the Corps delineated the wetlands on the three-mile Berlin Myers Parkway and the 18-mile Mark Clark Expressway.



(Left) Project Development Team of the Year: Project Managers: Rhonda Bath, Skip Haynes  
PDT Members: Catherine Blackwell, Jeff Fersner, Doug Green, Nancy Hamilton, Jim Hanks, Jason Hinton, Tom Hordnes, Jon Jorgenson, Bryan Tempio, William Wallace, Henry Wigfall and Christopher Zell. This PDT completed the comprehensive Soldier fitness Master Resilience Training Center (MRTC) located on Fort Jackson in just a mere 87 days. The MRTC is a ten-day course for Army leaders that provides them with skills to prepare their Soldiers for stressors encountered throughout their career. The course is designed to build confidence, improve communication skills, maximize potential and improve readiness.







(Above) Team Member of the Year--Technician/Technical Support: Vanessa Stoney, resource management. Stoney agreed to a reassignment as the acting supervisor for the Budget, Manpower and Management Analysis Branch from July 2009 until December 2009, while the budget officer was detailed on a temporary duty assignment at the Jacksonville District. Vanessa plays an important role by ensuring that military construction projects and the civil works program funds were executed timely and accurately.



(Above) Field Team Member of the Year: Robert Huff, regulatory division. Huff made great strides to improve the quality of his work that ultimately benefits the entire regulatory staff of this state. With a strong work ethic he always delivers a quality product on time.

(Below) Commander's Award for Extraordinary Achievement: Jeff Fersner, technical services branch. Fersner encompasses all that a District employee should strive to be. Fersner backfilled for a deployed PM and participated on the ICE PRT. In the first week of his PM assignment, he had to deal with a fire on the Lake Marion project. He has completed approximately 80 cost estimates for military construction projects, International and Interagency Support projects and civil works projects.



(Below) Team Member of the Year (Administrative, Technical Support, Clerical): Jackie Cotton, project management. Cotton is extremely organized making her a crucial asset to the project management division. Cotton ensures time is input, supplies are ordered, travel arrangements are made and copies are distributed. She even makes sure people's birthdays are celebrated and our deployed personnel get care packages. She takes excellent care of them.





## Sharing Knowledge

By: Sean McBride

During the week of June 28th-July 2, Charleston played host to the 8th Annual Programs and Project Management Community of Practice Conference (PPM CoP). Here, project managers from all over the U.S.



Wilson presenting at the PPM CoP where he enjoyed talking about his role at the District.

Army Corps of Engineers' 47 districts came together to share knowledge from their projects. The group engaged in lectures, workshops and hands-on projects during the week.

On the final day of the conference, Wes Wilson, project controller from the Charleston District, gave a presentation, entitled "How a PC Environment Leads to PM Success."

Wilson discussed how using project controls in your district's project management division can be integral to the success of your district's projects. A project controller's job is to assist the project managers with scheduling, budget, earned value, reports, workload analysis, project analysis, data quality, change control and business processes so that the project is completed as planned.

Wilson stressed that a project controller is not a substitute for a project manager knowing their schedules and budgets but are instead an integrated partner with them.

"If your project managers are working closely with your project controllers, there is less chance for error," said Wilson. "Project controls is something fairly new, but we have seen great success with it at the Charleston District and used the PPM CoP Conference as an opportunity to teach other project managers another way to help make the Corps' work successful throughout all our districts."

For more information on the project control program, contact Wes Wilson at 843-329-8054.

## Helping Our Neighbor

By: Sara Corbett

The Charleston District recently kicked off what is sure to be another successful Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The kick off happened at the District Town Hall where two guest speakers, Lisa Jones, interim director of CFC, and Donna Speko, an advocate from the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center, discussed how CFC benefits the community.

CFC is the only authorized solicitation of federal employees. In 2009, federal employees raised more than \$282 million for charitable causes around the world.

"Since we are so fortunate to have secure and stable jobs in this economy, it is our responsibility to help our less-fortunate neighbors," said Bill Stein, deputy, programs and project management.

The Charleston District's goal for fiscal year 2011 is \$22,000, which should be easily attainable, considering the



Donna Speko talks about CFC's positive effect on the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children's Center.

ing the caring employees that make up the workforce!

With much of the country still having financial problems, the Charleston

District is proud to help the community. At print time, the District had already surpassed their goal for this year.



## Keeping the District Healthy!

By: Sara Corbett

One of the goals of the Charleston District is to “recruit, train and retain the team.” The District’s team of employees spend countless hours each year bringing the best quality service possible to their customers. Throughout this, it is important to make sure employees are staying healthy and properly taking care of their bodies.



Jeff Fersner receives a flu shot at the health fair.

Being healthy not only includes proper exercise and nutrition, but a wide variety of other things that aren’t as easily

detected. That is why the District hosts an annual health fair that brings in nurses from a local hospital to administer flu shots, hearing tests, pulmonary tests,

cholesterol tests and more. Information on nutrition, diet guidance, cancer awareness and counseling services were also available.

“Going to these health fairs keeps me aware of my body and what I should be doing to keep myself healthy. I always learn a new way to improve my routine,” said Angela Kelly, contract specialist.

To kick off the health fair, Charleston District employees participated in the second annual “Bridge Walk.” This year, 78 employees from the District headquarters and field offices wearing reflective safety shirts walked or ran the 2.7 mile long Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge. The Bridge Walk allows employees from all the District’s offices around the state to gather for a fun morning of healthy activity.

“When an employee is in shape and fit, they are less likely to get sick, which helps them miss less days of work and makes them more productive workers. The more productive we are, the better customer service we can provide,” said John Lindsay, safety officer.

## Regulatory on National Public Radio

By: Sara Corbett

Lt. Col. Jason Kirk and Dr. Richard Darden were guests on National Public Radio’s Walter Edgar’s show, “The Journal.” “The Journal” covers various topics. This particular program was about sustainability and how it relates to the Corps regulatory role. Kirk and Darden also talked about the Charleston District’s overall mission and projects to give listeners a better understanding of the Corps mission and its value to the nation.

“It’s important for the public to understand regulatory’s role in the environment because we depend on citizens to be our eyes and ears in the community,” said Darden. “We aim to be a transparent organization that takes public opinion very seriously.”

Tune in to NPR on October 29, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. to listen.



Darden and Kirk as guests on NPR.

# TIDBITS



Corporate Communications Office  
Charleston District  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403